

Charles A. Callis, Southern States; Charles E. Rowan, Jr., Texas; Elias S. Woodruff, Western States; William R. Sloan, Northwestern States; John V. Bluth, Canada; Antoine R. Ivins, Mexico; Alonzo A. Hinckley, California; Levi Edgar Young, Temple Block, Salt Lake City, Utah.

## FIRST DAY

### MORNING MEETING

The opening session of the Conference commenced promptly at 10 o'clock, Friday morning, April 8th, at which time the great Tabernacle auditorium and galleries were almost completely filled with people who had assembled from all parts of the Church.

President Heber J. Grant presided and called the Conference to order by announcing the opening hymn, "Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation," which was sung by the congregation.

Elder Willard Young offered the opening prayer.

Sister Edith Grant Young sang a solo "The City four square."

### PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

I rejoice exceedingly in having the opportunity of again meeting with the Latter-day Saints in General Conference.

It has been customary for many years in the opening of these conferences to give a statement regarding the expenditures in the various stakes of Zion, and for other purposes.

The expenditures by the Church for the year 1931 are as follows:

#### *Stake and Ward Purposes:*

There has been returned from the tithes to the stakes and wards for the construction of ward and stake meeting houses .....	\$ 545,630.69
For ward maintenance expenses .....	647,194.36
For stake maintenance expenses .....	254,025.41
	\$1,446,850.46

#### *Education:*

Expended for the maintenance of Church school system..\$ 751,200.28

#### *Temples:*

Expended for the construction, maintenance, and operation of temples ..... 201,833.50

#### *Charities:*

For the care of the worthy poor and other charitable purposes, including hospital treatment ..... 224,556.38

#### *Missions:*

For the maintenance and operation of all the missions, and

for the erection of places of worship and other build-  
ings in the missions ..... 757,126.76

Total ..... \$3,381,567.38

which has been taken from the tithes and other Church  
funds and returned by the Trustee-in-Trust to the  
Saints for the maintenance and operation of the stakes  
and wards for the maintenance and operation of  
Church schools and Temples, for charities and mission  
activities.

#### *Other Charities:*

In addition to charities paid from the tithes as before  
named, there has also been disbursed the fast offerings,  
other charities, and assistance rendered by the Relief  
Society in the sum of \$455,423.46, which amount,  
added to the \$224,556.38 paid from the tithes, makes  
the total, charity assistance rendered by the Church. . \$ 679,979.84

There has been collected by the various wards of the Church  
and paid to missionaries to assist in their maintenance 66,783.90

#### MEMBERS SPEND MILLION

Undoubtedly there has been expended by the people themselves,  
in sending missionaries out into the world and taking care of them  
while there, considerably more than one million dollars.

#### STATISTICS AND OTHER DATA COMPILED FROM THE ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 1931

We have at the present time: Stakes of Zion, 104; wards, 934;  
Independent branches, 70; Dependent branches, 35; total wards and  
branches in the stakes of Zion, 1,039; missions, 30; mission branches,  
860; districts, 266.

#### CHURCH GROWTH

Children blessed and entered on the records of the Church in the  
stakes and missions ..... 19,804

Children baptized in the stakes and missions ..... 15,283

Converts baptized and entered on the records of the stakes and  
missions ..... 7,596

Number of long-term missionaries from Zion, December 31, 1931 1,627

Number of short-term missionaries from Zion, December 31, 1931 30

Number of local missionaries ..... 46

Total number of missionaries on foreign missions..... 1,703

Number engaged in missionary work in stakes ..... 1,151

Total missionaries ..... 2,854

Number of missionaries who received training at the Missionary

Home ..... 601

Persons recommended to the temples from the stakes..... 72,152

## SOCIAL STATISTICS

Birth rate, 29 per thousand.

Marriage rate, 12.8 per thousand.

Death rate, 6.6 per thousand.

Families owning their own homes, 65.2 per cent.

## HOME OWNING URGED

Our records show that in years gone by over 75 per cent of the people owned their own homes. There is a spiritual growth always when people own their own homes. The owning of a home creates a spirit of loyalty to the Church and also, really, to the government. It is illustrated somewhat in an incident that I heard regarding a nobleman in France who was very wealthy. His butler, who drew a large salary, attended socialistic meetings. The nobleman noticed that the butler had discontinued attending these meetings and asked the reason.

Said he: "At the last meeting a report was made of how much per capita everybody would receive when all of the wealth was appropriated and distributed, and already I have more in the savings bank than would come to me."

It cured him completely.

CHANGES IN STAKE AND MISSION OFFICERS SINCE LAST  
OCTOBER CONFERENCE*Stake President Appointed:*

John B. Reed appointed president of the San Luis stake to succeed James P. Jensen.

*New Mission Presidents:*

James H. Douglas appointed president of the British mission to succeed A. William Lund.

Alonzo A. Hinckley appointed president of the California mission to succeed Joseph W. McMurrin.

Clarence H. Tingey appointed president of the Australian mission to succeed Leonidas D. Mecham, acting-president.

Gustave W. Forsberg appointed president of the Swedish mission to succeed Gideon N. Hulterstrom.

*New Wards Organized:*

Torrence ward, Los Angeles stake.

Farmington ward, Young stake.

Caliente ward, Moapa stake.

*New Independent Branches:*

Alameda branch, San Francisco stake.

Hayward branch, San Francisco stake.

*General Authorities Who Have Passed Away:*

Charles W. Nibley, 2nd counselor in the First Presidency.

Hyrum G. Smith, Presiding Patriarch of the Church.

*Bishops Who Have Passed Away:*

Adrian Schipper, Elmhurst ward, San Francisco stake.

S. J. Lindsay, Taylorsville ward, Cottonwood stake.

John M. Grow, Middleton ward, Ogden stake.

## LAUDS THOSE DEAD

I am sure that those of us who had the opportunity of attending the funeral of President Charles W. Nibley felt very grateful for the remarkable spirit that was present and for the very splendid tributes that were paid to him. I had that privilege and I rejoice in the spirit of the occasion, and in the excellent remarks.

I regret that I was in the East at the time of the funeral of the Patriarch. But from what I have read of the services I am very pleased indeed with the tributes paid to him.

In addition to these officials of the Church whose names I have read, who have passed away during the time since our last Conference, the editor of the *Improvement Era*, and former president of Liberty stake of Zion, Brother Hugh J. Cannon, has also passed away. Brother Cannon presided over the Swiss and German mission many years ago when I was president of the European mission.

He subsequently returned to Germany and Switzerland and fulfilled a third mission, he having been there originally as a young missionary, not presiding. Brother Cannon, as you are all aware, filled a mission with Brother David O. McKay, taking a trip around the world, visiting all the missions of the Church, I believe, with the exception of South Africa. I rejoice in the splendid record that Brother Hugh J. Cannon made in every Church position that he occupied. He was a man of God, a man worthy of the respect and admiration of all people.

## RECEIVES LETTER

I received this morning a letter from Brother Robert I. Burton, president of Mount Ogden stake. Among other things he says:

"The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the source of the greatest comfort and joy to me, and I never tire of its message. Attendance at the Conference thrills and stimulates me more than I am able to tell. I count it as one of the great blessings of my life, that I have been permitted to become personally acquainted with you and other General Authorities of the Church and to labor with you in a humble way in the great cause of our Heavenly Father. I know of the cleanness and purity of your life, and I am filled with righteous indignation when I read such scurrilous attacks as are made against you in a little four page sheet recently issued. It seems to me that something should be done with men who send such slanderous vilifications through the mail."

## MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

I received the sheet to which he refers and it found its place in the waste basket. I did not read a word of it. When men have so lived that they are unworthy to be in the Church and are cast out, they are wasting their time sending me printed matter or written matter. The